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15 February 1954

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES**

**SUBJECT: Trip to New York and Connecticut to Contact Colonel SOVA and Professor BRASLAVITS**

1. The purpose of the visit to Colonel SOVA in New Britain, on 11 February 1954, was to look into the matter of the letter from JACK (please refer to attachments). This visit was arranged through the [ ] [ ] A member of the [ ] accom-  
panied me to New Britain.
2. SOVA admitted that the Canadian address to which JACK had written had been on a list of mail drop addresses which SOVA had shown JACK; however, SOVA avowed that he thought JACK had not taken the address involved. It was further evinced that the return name and address used by JACK are not the name and address of the Canadian's relative in Mariampolis, and that the Canadian received the letter some time ago, but not realizing it was for SOVA did not send it to him until recently.
3. SOVA said he would write to his Canadian cousin immediately to insure that all future letters (if any) are forwarded to him promptly and that the envelope in which the letter from JACK was received is also sent to him. SOVA will also tell the Canadian not to reply to the letter.
4. I asked SOVA whether the letter from JACK had any significance to him. SOVA said that, of course, he had no code with JACK but that he could glean the following meaning from the overt text:
  - a. JACK was free on 22 June 1953.
  - b. JACK was involved in December 1952 in some sort of liquidation action carried out by the Soviets in which he suffered some sort of a great loss.
  - c. JACK has lost contact with the Americans.
  - d. JACK is looking to the Americans for assistance.
5. SOVA further said that since JACK used the ROKAS address, he may also use the GRIGALIUNAS address in New Zealand, which was on the same list as the ROKAS address (our records show the GRIGALIUNAS address as having been issued to STEVE.) I requested SOVA to write to GRIGALIUNAS and insure that any letters received to date or to be received in the future are promptly forwarded to SOVA.
6. SOVA will maintain contact with me concerning the above matters through the [ ] [ ]
7. The meeting with Professor J. BRASLAVITS on 12 February 1954, was

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held for the purpose of exploring the possibility of using his organization--the Lithuanian Front--for recruitment purposes (penetration operations into Lithuania). During the three and one-half hour luncheon with BRAZAITYS at the Statler Hotel, BRAZAITYS discussed his organization's composition (young, active splinters from the Christian Democratic party, and members of resistance movements during the first Soviet and the German occupations); its program (fostering strong patriotism in its members, keeping them physically and mentally alert, and participating in anti-Soviet political and propaganda activities --especially in Germany, France, Spain and Italy); and his personal ambitions (establishment of a strong, active VLIK, injecting personal morality into Lithuanian emigre politics, and contributing in some way to maintenance of a spirit of resistance by Lithuanians in the West and in Lithuania as well). BRAZAITYS, while admitting that his organization was comparatively new, claimed it was very active, ambitious, and its members dedicated to their ideology. (This fact is known to be true from other sources.)

8. It was not too difficult to elicit from BRAZAITYS the information in which I was primarily interested, i.e., whether the Lithuanian Front was a suitable recruiting ground for penetration agents (even though the question could not, at this stage, be asked directly). In this connection, BRAZAITYS said that his organization has many young people so completely devoted to their anti-Communist and pro-Independent Lithuanian principles that they "would be willing to do anything and go anywhere" (my underscoring). BRAZAITYS further said it was always his feeling that an organization like this--in name a resistance organization--could not really make a maximum contribution to the fatherland and to the anti-Communist struggle unless they actually maintain contact with the homeland. However, BRAZAITYS sadly observed, his organization does not have the money nor the technical means to maintain this contact. Quite a while ago, BRAZAITYS continued, the British approached him with an offer to cooperate in this work, but BRAZAITYS refused. He said he believes the British were interested in his organization only for their own selfish interests--they really weren't concerned about Lithuania as the Americans were. (Note: This approach was probably made just prior to establishment of LBS by British.)

9. In summation, it is felt that:

- a. BRAZAITYS' group does offer good possibilities for recruitment of agents.
- b. BRAZAITYS would, obviously, want something for himself out of any deal or assistance he gives us. He'd probably want to be apprised, in a general way, of the missions of the agents and see some, if not all, of the traffic. These desires are, of course, not objectionable if we could be sure that BRAZAITYS would keep the information to himself. (He is apt to be secure, since his past history in the Lithuanian political and resistance picture shows him to be so.)

10. This facet of the discussion with BRAZAITYS ended with the note that I was interested in further discussing the Lithuanian political and

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resistance picture and the Lithuanian Front's role in it. I suggested that BRAZAITYS visit me in Washington within a few weeks. He agreed. We will maintain contact by mail.

11. BRAZAITYS then told me that a short time ago he received a letter from the Lithuanian Minister in Toronto, Canada, SILENAS GILYS. This letter indicated that two Lithuanian friends of GILYS each saw TILESTONE in Toronto the latter part of December 1953! BRAZAITYS admits this is a fantastic report, but says the witnesses are positive of their identification. The report said that at first TILESTONE did not admit his identity and that he appeared frightened at being discovered. He eventually did admit to being TILESTONE, however. No further details are available, but I'm mailing money to BRAZAITYS so that he can go to Toronto to get more detailed information from GILYS and the two persons who met TILESTONE, as well as to try to locate TILESTONE. (NOTE: Perhaps there's a connection between the TILESTONE incident and the "GRIMEVICIOUS" whom [ ] exfiltrated from Poland recently?)

AVG/sgs

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